

## RE: Healthy & High Performing Schools Symposium Panels and Presenters

### Presentation Title:

*Sustainable School Campuses: From Hardscape to Landscape, Maximizing the Dollars and Sense*

### Presenter Bios:

Andi Cooper, RLA, LEED AP - WRD Environmental, Director of Business Development

*With her 17+ years as an award-winning landscape architect, Andi has in-depth understanding of environmentally focused and sustainability-driven campus and site plans. She is passionate about fostering learning environments that connect children with nature and cultivate their imaginations – creating outdoor spaces that "leave no child inside."*

*At WRD, she specializes in helping educational institutions dream - and implement - landscape approaches that reduce long-term costs while creating inspiring places for students to grown and learn.*

*Her master's work from the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment (SNRE) focused on the integration of sustainable landscapes and people. Andi is a registered Landscape Architect in Illinois, and is LEED Accredited Professional (LEED AP).*

Andy Stahr, PLA, LEED AP – ecology + vision, llc., Principal

*With over a decade of award-winning experience as a design professional, both in the public and private sectors, and in the restoration ecology contracting industry, Andy offers a unique perspective to his clients on the successful implementation of native plants into their projects by providing field-tested insight as to what works...both on paper and in the field...when it comes to the creation or restoration of aesthetically positive natural areas and sustainable landscapes.*

*Andy holds a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from the University of Illinois, is a registered landscape architect in the states of IL, MI & MO and is a LEED Accredited Professional.*

### Presentation Description - Short:

*Using the Woodridge School District 68 as a case study, Ms. Cooper will educate attendees on how to eliminate school campus maintenance issues, reduce long-term costs, correct stormwater & icing issues in an ecologically sound manner while reducing runoff by over 75% and create outdoor educational amenities. She will also discuss the economics of green infrastructure and opportunities to fund such improvements.*

*Mr. Stahr will educate attendees in an aspect of green infrastructure and sustainable landscape applications that they are likely not completely familiar with, but in the end has the highest degree of public visibility and scrutiny...the plants ! Attendees will learn how using native plants and effective design parameters can reduce environmental impacts, build healthier communities and enhance educational opportunities while maintaining positive aesthetics.*

## **Presentation Description - Long:**

### *HARDSCAPE (Andi Cooper, WRD Environmental)*

*Why rethink asphalt? For Woodridge School District 68 it came down to economics, ongoing maintenance, and severe water issues. By changing from their traditional design methods, the district is achieving multi-faceted opportunities that connect economics, education, and conservation.*

*Woodridge School District 68 serves approximately 2,400 elementary and middle school students in DuPage County. At each of their 7 schools they suffered from annual damage by freezing rain and snowmelt, an ongoing fiscal burden to maintain and repair the problems.*

*As a result of their issues, WRD worked closely with administration and staff to study the facilities, and implement green infrastructure strategies and outdoor learning opportunities. The program is a multi-year approach and is funded in part of stormwater grant funds. The result is a reduction in annual maintenance costs for parking lots by 80%, as well as an improved environment, that allows for integrated curriculum enhancements and connection to the outdoors.*

- 1. Learn how to eliminate school campus maintenance issues and reduce long-term costs.*
- 2. Learn how to correct stormwater and icing issues in an ecologically sound manner, while reducing runoff by over 75%.*
- 3. Learn how to maximize a school campus to create outdoor educational amenities.*
- 4. Learn about the economics of green infrastructure and opportunities to fund such improvements.*

### *LANDSCAPE (Andy Stahr, ecology + vision, llc.)*

*This presentation is intended for an audience already familiar with the concepts, application, design and benefits of modern best management practices related to “Green Infrastructure” projects (Architects, Engineers, etc.). The intent is not to detail concepts or construction methods for the infrastructure application itself, rather it is intended to educate this audience in an aspect that they are likely not completely familiar with, but in the end has the highest degree of public visibility and scrutiny...the plants!*

*This highly graphic presentation is inspired by an industry that struggles with failure...the ecological restoration and native landscaping industry. We will review the pre-conceived notions so often associated with native plants due to failed installation & management “industry standard” practices (i.e. a “weed patch”, a “wild area”, etc.) and attempt to dispel those notions with a photographic portfolio showing what sustainable landscape or natural area restorations can and should look like. Our goal is to provide professional designers a basic understanding of native plant benefits, functions, potential costs savings and the processes for their successful design, construction, maintenance and monitoring. Teachers, students, parents and school organizations/staff will benefit by gaining a basic understanding of ecosystem function, the role native plants play in ecosystem health, how sustainable landscapes create educational opportunities and a basic understanding of the efforts required to attain success in planting and maintaining sustainable landscapes.*

- 1. Basic understanding of ecosystem function, the critical role native plants play and their relationship to humans*
- 2. Keys to successful sustainable landscape design & construction*
- 3. Keys to successful sustainable landscape maintenance*
- 4. Basic understanding that when done correctly from planning through management sustainable landscapes function as an asset, not a liability, and contribute positively to the community.*